

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 16, 26, 30, and 46 has been amended to overcome the claim objections.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-22, 24-37, 39-53, 55-60, and 62-73 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular the Examiner questions the limitation “wherein said transmitter is free from being maintained in a pilot relay housing surrounding said transmitter”. The claim language has been modified to generally recite the transmitted not being located in the pilot relay housing surrounding the transmitter.

It is noted that in FIG. 1, the pilot relay 32 is located in a pilot relay housing 32. It is noted that in FIG. 2, the transmitted is not located in the pilot relay housing. The textual specification is in accordance therewith. Accordingly, the written description requirement is satisfied.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 16-20, 22, 24-36, 30-35, 37, 39-41, 46-51, 53, 55-57 and 66-71 as being unpatentable over Admission in view of Hoadley.

The admitted prior art discloses, as shown in FIG. 1, a pilot relay that is necessarily maintained within a pilot relay housing. The pilot relay housing is maintained in the pilot relay housing due to electrical code requirements. The pilot relay housing is supported by the contactor housing. The electrical code requirements do not permit passing a low voltage conductor through the contactor housing. This structure is the result of electrical code requirements.

Hoadley disclose the use of an optical coupling technique to replace an electrical coupling method to prevent spurious currents from entering the shielded enclosure.

The suggested combination by the Examiner of the teaching of the admitted prior art with Hoadley would result in the pilot relay of the admitted prior art being replaced with optical coupling structure of Hoadley. The resulting structure would include optical coupling structure being enclosed within the pilot relay housing of the admitted prior art.

Claims 1, 16, 30, and 46 patentably distinguish over the cited combination by claiming the transmitter is not located in a housing spaced apart from and surrounding the transmitter.

In addition, there would be no motivation to locate the optical coupling structure anywhere but within the pilot relay housing because neither reference recognizes any benefit that may result nor that such an arrangement, nor recognize that the electrical code requirements would permit such removal. Moreover, even if the housing of FIG. 1 of Hoadley was incorporated, as suggested by the Examiner, the resulting housing would be spaced apart from and surrounding the transmitter.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.


This Amendment is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for Extension of Time, together with the requisite fees. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-1550.

Respectfully submitted,

CHERNOFF, VILHAUER, McCLUNG & STENZEL

Dated: July 27, 2006

By

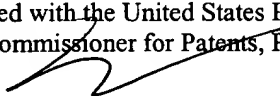


Kevin L. Russell
Reg. No. 38,292
1600 ODS Tower
601 SW Second Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
Tel: (503) 227-5631

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 27, 2006.

Dated: July 27, 2006



Kevin L. Russell